

BIG BLOW STRUCK AT BULGARIANS; ENTENTE COLD TO PEACE OFFER

**Suggestion, Made Through Austria
That the Entente Nations Agree to
Conference on Peace, Does Not
Meet Favorable Reception**

**IT'S CALLED A TRICK
TO AVOID GREAT DEFEAT**

**Germany Proposed That Belgium Be-
come Neutral If Germany Will
Merely Evacuate the Territory
Seized at Beginning of War**

(By the Associated Press.)

Allied troops are on the offensive on the Macedonian front. Reorganized Serbian forces, aided by French units, are attacking the Bulgarian positions in the mountains on the Serbo-Greek border, east of Monastir.

Three important hill positions, which had withstood allied efforts through several years, already have fallen to the Serbians and French.

The positions captured are Sokol, Dolbro Polie and Teak Vetrenik. Sokol is 20 miles east of Monastir. The captured positions are about midway between the Cerna and Vardar rivers and command the upper course of the Cerna after it makes a wide curve south-east of Monastir.

Several hundred prisoners have been taken in the advance, which continues.

Meanwhile, the French and British troops on the main battle front in France continue their progress. Between the Oise and the Aisne the French are pressing on. North of the Aisne they have taken the town of Vailly and near the Chemin des Dames have stormed Mont des Singes, an important hill position.

Astride the Scarpe the British have pushed forward new posts, while along the Ypres-Comines canal, southeast of Ypres, they have advanced on a front of two miles. West of Cambrai and around St. Quentin, the activity has died down after the British capture of Maisemey.

The serial and artillery arms have been active on the new American front southwest of Metz. The enemy guns have been hammering American lines but no infantry attacks developed. Allied aviators have bombed railroad centers and other military targets in the Metz area, while the enemy airmen have bombed some places within the American lines, including St. Mihiel.

The Peace Proposal.

While Austria was preparing her note to the belligerent nations, proposing that they meet in informal discussion of peace terms in a neutral country, Germany was making ready to make another offer of separate peace to Belgium. It is announced that the Belgian government has been approached with a proposal that if she will remain neutral during the remainder of the war, Germany is ready to withdraw to the frontiers that were violated in August, 1914.

It is affirmed from Berlin that the Austrian government has accepted its own initiative in sending out its peace proposals, but the offer of Germany to Belgium points to what may be said to be more than a coincidence, and probably a desperate "peace offensive" now is well under way.

If official sentiment is reflected by newspaper comment at the entente capitals, the efforts of the central powers to reach a peace by negotiation are doomed to failure. In London and Paris the offer of Austria was very coldly received, while at Washington it is pointed out that the United States will not entertain any peace tentatives that can, at best, bring about only a temporary respite from hostilities and will leave Germany and Austria free to break the peace of the world at any future date.

Even in the German press there seems to be little hope that the allies will agree to meet representatives of central powers. The newspapers of Berlin point out that similar steps by Germany and Austria have failed in the past and that while the people will no doubt be hopeful for a cessation of the struggle, there is little prospect of its early termination.

RESUMED THEIR WORK.

Pending Appeal to the War Labor Board for Adjudication.

Reading, Pa., Sept. 16.—The 1,200 or more employees of the Carpenter Steel Works, who went out strike Saturday morning pending a wage adjustment, which amounts on the average to about 25 per cent., returned to work this morning. Several hundred employees began work last evening at 6 o'clock on the night shift. The calling off of the strike means that the union's side of the wage question will be placed before the war labor board, of which former President Taft is chairman.

James H. Maurer, president of the state federation of labor said that the return to work was the logical thing for the men to do, as when their appeal is acted upon by the war board, their increase if one is granted, will date from the time that they made their demands.

SERBIANS STRUCK A HEAVY BLOW AT BULGARIANS

With the Aid of French Forces, They
Captured Three Strongly Fortified
Positions on Saloniki Front.

Washington, D. C., Sept. 16.—Launching of an offensive against the Bulgarians on the Saloniki front by the reorganized Serbian army, in co-operation with French forces, and the capture of three strongly fortified Bulgarian positions, is announced in an official Serbian communique received here to-day from Saloniki.

The positions taken are Teak Vetrenik, Dolbro Polie and the mountain Sokol, which the Bulgarians had held for two and a half years and were regarded as their strongest places. Starting yesterday after artillery preparation, the Serbians and French moved forward, reached their objectives and still were going when to-day's dispatch was filed.

The communique follows:

"Saloniki, Sept. 16.—After heavy artillery preparation started on Sept. 14, the Serbian army, in co-operation with the French troops, attacked on Sept. 15 the strongly organized Bulgarian positions on the front Teak Vetrenik (4,724 feet), Dolbro Polie (5,577 feet), Mountain Sokol (5,837 feet).

The most important points held by the enemy on the Saloniki front and the Bulgarians have been fortifying them for the last 30 months.

"Our attack has been completely successful; the enemy front now is pierced and all three of the mentioned positions are in our hands. We have taken several hundred Bulgarian prisoners, numbers of guns and great quantities of other war materials. Our operation continues."

BRITISH ALSO ACTIVE

On the Doiran Sector of the Macedonian Front.

Paris, Sunday, Sept. 16.—The French war office statement on operations in Macedonia Saturday says:

"There was lively artillery activity along the entire front. In the Doiran sector British troops carried out a raid. Between the lakes an enemy raid was repulsed.

"French, Serbian and British aviators dropped two tons of bombs on enemy encampments."

ATTEMPT TO DIVIDE ALLIES, SAYS BALFOUR

Cynical Proposal of the Austrian Government Is Not a Genuine Attempt to Obtain Peace.

London, Sept. 16.—A. J. Balfour, the British foreign secretary, giving his personal viewpoints on the Austrian peace note to visiting journalists said:

"It is inconceivable that anything can come of this proposal." Coming after the speech of Friedrich Von Payer, the German imperial vice chancellor, Mr. Balfour said, "This cynical proposal of the Austrian government is not a genuine attempt to obtain peace. It is an attempt to divide the allies."

FRENCH DRAW NEARER CHEMIN DES DAMES

While Germans Are Sustaining Very Heavy Losses in Effort to Stem the Tide of Gen. Mangin's Advance.

The French Army in France, Sunday, Sept. 15 (By the Associated Press).—The sacrifices the Germans are making to stay the slow and steady advance of General Mangin's forces toward the Chemin des Dames are made evident by the large number of the enemy dead found on the field of Saturday's and Sunday's operations. The number of prisoners, which increased during the day to more than 3,500, also is very large for the length of the front attacked.

The dead are thickest around Laffaux mill and east of Vauxillon, where the enemy counter-attacked violently to-day in a vain effort to regain the positions he lost Saturday.

General Mangin's troops not only maintained all their gains, but pushing on from Vauxillon, captured the plateau to the southeast, which gives them a vantage ground of great importance. Extending the field of battle to the south, the French also made appreciable gains by occupying Mennejean farm and ground considerably to the east of that position. Farther south they took by storm hill No. 199, north of Celles-sur-Aisne.

The Germans came back repeatedly in strong force all along this front and fought stubbornly, but with no other result than to increase their extremely heavy losses.

Further advances by the French on the high ground west and south of the Chemin des Dames will make the German positions there very precarious.

BRITISH ADVANCED ON ARRAS-CAMBRAI ROAD

And in Flanders Haig's Men Pushed Ahead on Both Sides of Ypres-Comines Canal.

London, Sept. 16.—British troops last night advanced their line north of the Arras-Cambrai road, establishing posts in the vicinity of Sauchy-Cauchy and Oppy, says to-day's report from Field Marshal Haig.

On the Flanders front the British pushed ahead in a successful minor operation on both sides of the Ypres-Comines canal on a front of more than two miles.

The text reads:

"During the night we carried out a successful minor operation astride the Ypres-Comines canal, advancing our lines on a front of over two miles and capturing a number of prisoners and machine guns.

"On the battlefield encounters with hostile raiding parties and patrols have taken place in the neighborhood of Moenves and near Gavrelle.

"We have established new posts in the vicinity of Sauchy-Cauchy and Oppy."

BRITISH TOOK MAISEMEY.

Is Village Five Miles Northwest of St. Quentin.

With the British Army in France, Sunday, Sept. 15 (By the Associated Press).—Maisemey, a village five miles northwest of St. Quentin, has been captured by the British, adding another important position to those recently taken along the ridges west of St. Quentin.

A little below this place and to the southeast of Holnon wood, the British also improved their lines slightly. Fighting of local nature continues on the northern battle front near La Bassée, where the enemy has been forced to give ground steadily.

British gunners bombarded the Hindenburg line fiercely for hours yesterday, and heavy losses were inflicted. German gunners have been maintaining an intense fire in the Gouzeaucourt sector and deluged Havrincourt with explosives yesterday.

GERMAN ARTILLERY FIRE IS HEAVIER

But No Infantry Attacks Have Been Made on the New American Lines in Lorraine Sector.

With the American Army in Lorraine, Sunday, Sept. 15 (Reuters).—French and American forces to-day were in contact with the Kriemhild defenses, which are of enormous strength. Yet it may be doubted whether the enemy feels safe in these entrenchments after having been driven in a day from some of the strongest natural positions on the whole front. These positions withstood some of the fiercest assaults of the war.

CLOSE ON THE GERMANS.

French and Americans Are Up to the Kriemhild Defenses.

With the American Army in France, Sunday, Sept. 15 (Reuters).—French and American forces to-day were in contact with the Kriemhild defenses, which are of enormous strength. Yet it may be doubted whether the enemy feels safe in these entrenchments after having been driven in a day from some of the strongest natural positions on the whole front. These positions withstood some of the fiercest assaults of the war.

CAPTURED VICIOUS HUN.

Americans Got the Man Who Exploited Chlorine Gas Torture.

With the American Army in France, Sunday, Sept. 15 (Reuters).—Among the captives taken by the Americans at Thiaucourt was Prof. Otto Schmeinkake, the exploiter of chlorine gas as a form of civilized torture.

BAKER IN LONDON.

American War Secretary Arrived There from Paris To-day.

London, Sept. 16.—Newton D. Baker, the American secretary of war, arrived in London to-day from Paris.

GERMANS DENY PARTICIPATION

Semi-Official Statement Says
Peace Offer Binds Aus-
tria Alone

GERMANY TOOK
NO PART IN MOVE

Another Report Said Em-
peror Charles Ordered
the Note Sent

Paris, Sept. 16. (Havas).—It is reported from a Berlin semi-official source that Foreign Minister Burian's move in sending the note inviting the belligerents to a conference constituted an act binding Austria alone, says a Zurich dispatch to-day. Germany, it is declared, took no part whatever in drawing up the note.

EMPEROR CHARLES ORDERED NOTE SENT

It Was Developed By Foreign Minister
Baron Burian, According to a
German Newspaper.

Amsterdam, Sept. 16.—The note in which Austria-Hungary invites the belligerents to a conference for discussion of the possibilities of peace was dispatched by Baron Burian, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, on the order of Emperor Charles, the Cologne Volks Zeitung declares.

The note was handed to the entente representatives at Berne, Switzerland, at one o'clock Saturday afternoon according to the Voessische Zeitung of Berlin. The note was simultaneously presented at Berlin, Sofia and Constantinople and was brought to the knowledge of neutral powers.

GERMANY PROFFERS TO BE RUFFLED BY AUSTRIAN NOTE

Press Comment Would Try to Show That
Austria Overstepped—In Any Event,
Doubt of the Result Is Expressed.

Amsterdam, Sept. 16.—Sharp reproach of Austria-Hungary is voiced by the Voessische Zeitung of Berlin, which declares that if its offer is accepted by the entente it means "the bankruptcy of Vienna policy."

George Bernard remarks that this is the first time a central power has acted independently, which action, he says, will create the impression that the central powers are not united, but that the Germans and Austrians are fighting among themselves. If, as may be expected, he says, the entente refuses the offer, then the prospects of peace are harmed rather than benefited.

The peace initiative should have been left to the entente allies, according to the Tages Zeitung of Berlin. "The fate of all previous announcements as to readiness for peace and a conciliatory spirit on the part of the central powers does not encourage great hopes that this offer will meet with greater success," the newspaper says.

The Berlin Post fears the offer will be again interpreted by entente countries as weakness and a sign of impending collapse, as well as a begging for peace, on the part of the central empires.

Austria's peace tentatives will be welcomed by the widest circles of the German people and many hopes will be placed in it, but it is necessary to utter a warning against over-hasty optimism," says the Vorwaerts.

WOULD GERMANY RESTORE?

That Is the Question Which Manchester,
England, Guardian Asks.

Manchester, England, Sept. 16.—The Guardian, discussing the Austrian peace note, asks if the central powers would be willing to restore the countries they have overrun, reverse the Brest-Litovsk treaty and set Russia free and leave Poland, Lithuania, Finland and the Ukraine to determine their own destinies.

"These are among the questions which the allied governments are entitled to ask before consenting to enter upon confidential negotiations," the Guardian declares.

IGNORED BY WALL STREET.

Austria's Peace Note Had Very Little Effect.

New York, Sept. 16.—Austria's peace proposal was virtually ignored by Wall Street, as interpreted by the opening quotations on the stock market to-day. Standard issues and investment shares were steady. U. S. Steel opened unchanged to one-fourth of a point off. The general sentiment appeared to reflect opinion that the political attitude of Washington and London was antagonistic to the peace drive.

"FIGHTING FOURTH" LIBERTY LOAN

BEGINS
SEPTEMBER 28

Get ready: save to buy; buy early.

U. S. OFFICIALS CALL IT A RUSE

Austria's Peace Proposal
Meets with a Poor
Reception

GROWING WEAKNESS
OF CENTRAL POWERS

Is Said to Be Indicated by
a Vigorous Peace
Offensive

Washington, D. C., Sept. 16.—Receipt of the official text of the Austrian peace proposal was awaited to-day by officials here but unless the communication is couched in terms radically different from the version contained in press dispatches, it was felt that the entire plea could be characterized as a German ruse to obtain the best possible terms before an allied victory could impose the most severe punishment upon her.

The proposal as viewed by officials, it was reiterated, does not contain a single basis upon which the entente powers and the United States would be willing to meet the authors of the plea. In most circles it was held that the putting forth of the proposal at this time was but an admission of the growing weakness of the central powers.

If a reply is made it was considered likely that the allies would make a joint answer after an exchange of views.

FRENCH NOT SURPRISED.

Believe Austrian Peace Offensive Cannot Be Fruitful.

Paris, Sept. 16.—The Austrian proposal for a conference of the belligerents was not much of a surprise in Parisian political circles, where it is considered to be a consequence of the recent military successes of the allies. The general impression is that the new peace offensive cannot be fruitful.

HOLDS OUT BAIT TO THE BELGIANS

Germany Offers to Evacuate the Belgian
Territory, but Offers Nothing
as to Reparation.

London, Sept. 16.—Austria's peace note is in the hands of the government, together with information that Germany has made a direct offer of peace to Belgium, on the basis of restored political and economic independence and on condition of Belgian neutrality till the end of the war. No allusion to reparation or indemnity for the wrongs inflicted upon Belgium is said to have been made by Germany.

It is needless to say that these peace feelers make little impression on either the government or the people here. They are pointed out, however, as a revelation of speedy enemy appreciation of the meaning of American military participation in the war. The view is held in political circles that Germany realizes she will be compelled to withdraw from Belgium, and if she could secure a treaty barring Belgian territory to allied troops, and aircraft, she would be thereby protecting Germany against hostile attacks.

The Austrian note has not yet been presented formally to the British foreign office by the neutral minister in London whose government was requested by Austria-Hungary to transmit it, although the foreign office yesterday received a copy of the note from their representatives in neutral capitals.

LUCKY ESCAPE FROM DEATH.

Fred Dole of Waterbury Hurdled About
Shafting Many Times.

Waterbury, Sept. 16.—What looked at first to be a serious and perhaps fatal accident occurred Saturday evening at the factory of the Demeritt company between 8 and 9 o'clock. The large sheds were filled with corn, about 20 coming from the hospital to help out in the husking.

Fred Dole, who had been employed by the company only a short time and who, if it was needed, was supposed to run the husking machine, was the injured man.

Without the management authorizing the starting of the machine, he attempted to put on the belt, was caught in the shafting and whirled, it was thought, 40 or 50 times before the machinery could be stopped. He was taken down by Messrs. Carpenter, Harvey and Tacey, who thought him dead. His clothing was practically torn from his body and he was bleeding profusely from cuts and bruises. He was taken by Mr. Demeritt in his car to his home on Farrar avenue, where Dr. D. D. Groat, who was in one of the homes near, attended him. He found no bones broken and his condition is felt not to be serious. As he was comfortable yesterday, it is expected he will soon recover.

His wife, who was also at the factory, was near him, but the numbers who were horrified by the sight were soon relieved and business resumed.

His escape from instant death or serious injury probably is due to the fact that in the revolving he had plenty of space and did not hit anything, as he would have done on shafting inside the building.

Mr. Dole has a wife only, moved here from Northfield and until recently had been employed at the talc mine. One thing of note in regard to the accident was the quietude of the patients from the hospital and the obedience they gave to their attendants. In fact, they showed much less emotion than the others in sight.

WANT 6-CENT FARE TO PAY MEN MORE

Trolley Company Presented the Proposal
to Barre, Montpelier and Berlin at
Conference Saturday Evening.

Basing its petition on the request of the operatives for higher wages, the Barre & Montpelier Traction & Power Co. is asking the municipalities of Barre and Montpelier to increase its interurban round-trip fare from 25 to 30 cents, and its local fares from a nickel to six cents, while reserving the privilege of issuing workmen's fares at the present rate. Officials of the company are asking for an early decision that the demands of the operatives may be met.

At the capital Saturday evening there was an informal conference, at which the officials of the traction road met the city councils of Barre and Montpelier and the selectmen of Berlin. It was the first joint conference of the two cities and the town since the traction company began broaching terms for a new franchise. No action was taken, nor was any intended, but the matter of the proposed fare increases was carefully discussed. It is expected that the local council will go into the subject more thoroughly at its regular meeting Tuesday evening, while the Montpelier city council will confer at greater length when the members meet Wednesday evening. In Berlin the town fathers plan to meet later in the week.

This morning an officer of the traction company stated that the officials are asking for just enough authority to meet the demand for more wages among the operatives. He cited the fact that in Boston fares have jumped from six cents to eight cents, while in nearly every other New England city served by traction railroads the high cost of living has compelled radical revision of tariff schedules. The conductors and motormen, or those of them who have not been called to the colors, are asking for a scale which will give them from 28 to 35 cents per hour for nine hours, instead of the 24 to 30 cents, which they are now receiving.

Officials of the traction road are at one in declaring that man-power in the matter of operating their cars is their chief problem. It is with difficulty that men can be retained for any length of time, and within a fortnight the company has been practically committed to a decision to employ women as conductors. The electric road, the officials add, is making any money, and its dividends will not increase if the fare schedule is changed, as the difference in the income will go to the operatives.

MRS. PHOEBE J. LEWIS

Died Saturday Evening After Illness of
Three Weeks.

Mrs. Phoebe J. Lewis, wife of the late O. W. Lewis, passed away at her home, 13 Richardson street, Saturday night at 9:20 o'clock, the end following an illness of three weeks. She is survived by eight children, as follows: Earl M. Lewis, a city mail carrier, Mrs. H. J. McAuley of Omaha, Neb., Mrs. O. G. Barnard of Boston, Otis W. Lewis of Barre, Miss Pinkie Lewis of this city, Bernard W. Lewis of Waverly, Mass., Lawrence Lewis, a sailor aboard the U. S. S. Finland, and Miss Ruby Lewis of this city. There are also two brothers, Ellsworth Keel of Braddock, Pa., and Austin Keel of Somerset, Pa.

The deceased was a native of Somerset, Pa., where she was born 65 years ago. Her marriage took place around 43 years ago and for the past 27 years she had been a resident of Barre. Mrs. Lewis' death occurred in November, 1915. Mrs. Lewis was a member of the First Baptist church and in that as in other circles she was highly esteemed.

Funeral services will be held at the house Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Rev. B. J. Lehigh officiating. Interment is to be made in the family lot in Hope cemetery.

DON'T WASTE PAPER.

Merchants Are Asked to Conserve in the
Use of Wrapping Papers.

All merchants using wrapping papers have been asked to sign an agreement to use their best efforts to conserve in the use of wrapping and other papers. In fact, if they do not sign the agreement they cannot purchase paper for use in their stores after to-day. If, therefore, you think your merchant is stingy with wrappers for your purchases, don't blame him.

Here are seven reasons why paper must not be wasted, as given out by the war industries board:

1. The government's requirements for all kinds of paper are increasing rapidly and must be supplied.

2. Paper making requires a large amount of fuel which is essential for war purposes. A pound of paper wasted represents from one to three pounds of coal wasted.

3. Paper contains valuable chemicals necessary for war purposes. Economy in the use of paper will release a large quantity of these materials for making ammunition or poisonous gas.

4. Paper making requires labor and capital, both of which are needed in war service.

5. Paper making requires transportation space. Economy in the use of paper will release thousands of freight cars for war purposes.

6. Greater care in the purchase and use of paper will save money. Your savings will help finance the war.

7. Strictest economy in the use of paper will prevent a shortage.

LLOYD GEORGE MUCH BETTER.

Temperature Has Fallen, Says Bulletin
Issued in London.

London, Sept. 16.—A medical bulletin issued at midnight said Premier Lloyd George's temperature had fallen and that there was a great improvement in his condition.

COAL MINERS LAY DOWN TOOLS

Thousands Were Idle in An-
thracite Region
To-day

INCREASE IN WAGES
IS DEMANDED

They Are Warned to Re-
sume Pending the
Adjudication

Pottsville, Pa., Sept. 16.—All the Philadelphia & Reading Coal & Iron company collieries in the Shenandoah and Mahanoy regions are closed by strike this morning. The men are demanding an increase in wages. This action was decided upon at a meeting of the mine locals held Sunday. About 25,000 miners are affected.

Shamokin, Pa., Sept. 16.—Eleven thousand miners in the Shamokin and Mount Carmel district of the anthracite region suspended work to-day in conformity with the decision of a mass meeting held here Sunday. The Richards colliery of the Susquehanna Collieries company was the only colliery in operation to-day.

District President Matthews wired from Washington that until the men returned to work the federal fuel administration will refuse to consider an adjustment of the anthracite wage scale. The men are expected to go back to work to-morrow.

Reading, Pa., Sept. 16.—Word received in this city this morning shows that practically all of the mines in the Shamokin district are idle, and that in the other parts of the Schuylkill region, north of Broad mountain, few of the mines of the Reading Coal & Iron company are in operation. All of the mines south of Broad mountain are in operation. These include those in the Lickens valley, Tremont, Minersville and Schuylkill valley districts.

The men say the shutdown is owing to the failure of Fuel Administrator Garfield to adjust their pay differences.

BRIDGEPORT STRIKERS RESUME THEIR WORK

Tell Pres. Wilson That They Will Take
Their Case to the War Labor Board
and Asked His Influence for
Early Hearing.

Bridgeport, Conn., Sept. 16.—Reaffirming their loyalty to the government, the striking machinists and toolmakers here to-day sent a lengthy reply to President Wilson's order that they return to work, promising to return at once and do their part in keeping up the flow of munitions. They told the president that they would take up their grievances in an orderly manner with the Taft-Walsh war labor board and asked his influence to get them an early hearing.

"To the great cause of keeping up the flow of munitions to which you have dedicated yourself and the present administration, the machinists here are, we hope, equally dedicated. We loyally accept your command that we return to the working conditions which we left," the message reads, "and we shall proceed, as you advise us, to appeal our case to the established governmental tribunals, leaving the event in your hands as chief magistrate of our mighty nation."

"In thus going back to work, may we express the hope that we have not been sufficiently misrepresented in Washington to cause you for a moment to doubt our loyalty to the cause of this righteous war or to our country. There were things known to all in Bridgeport who had eyes to see and hearts to understand which failed utterly of transmission to the paper case created here for the consideration of the national war labor board section, so that in the end the machinists of this place were sacrificed to a picture painted in false colors by the employers and adopted by Otto M. Eidlitz in deciding, in Washington, our fate, after a year of fruitless appeals for plain justice and terms of employment which would mean security and stability for our families instead of endless jockeying by our employers."

The letter then goes on to say that while they have no further right to discuss the past issue, they ask the liberty of stating for the future guidance of the president, some of the incidents of the struggle and of the hearings held before the award was made.

CONDITION AGAIN CRITICAL.

Cardinal Farley Suffered Relapse After
Pneumonia Illness.

Mamaroneck, N. Y., Sept. 16.—Cardinal Farley, archbishop of New York, who suffered a relapse on Saturday, after partial recovery from an attack of pneumonia, is in a very critical condition, his secretary, Monsignor Carroll, said to-day. Members of the cardinal's ecclesiastical family found him unable to speak.